

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Gregory L. Thorne on 12/03/2009.

The application has been amended as follows:

Please amend claim 4, as follows:

4. An integrated circuit, comprising a network, the network having a plurality of nodes and a plurality of links between the nodes, the network being arranged to determine a return path of a packet when sending the packet from a source node to a destination node, via an intermediate node, wherein when the intermediate node is visited by the packet, the intermediate node stores information for deriving the return path for the packet to the source node, and wherein no information for deriving the return path is stored in the packet when the packet visits the intermediate node,

wherein the information stored in the intermediate node comprises a slot table that indicates which output port of the intermediate node is connected to which unique input port of the intermediate node in a given time slot and a time slot indicator indicating a time slot in which the packet is received by the intermediate node.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Minh-Trang Nguyen whose telephone number is

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(571)270-5248. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday 7:30AM to 5:00PM EST, first Friday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chirag G. Shah can be reached on 571-272-3144. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/M. N./

Examiner, Art Unit 2477

/Chirag G Shah/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2477